

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF TOWYN

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT

- 1956 -

To the Chairman and Members of the Towyn Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Miss Richards and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Health Report for the year ending 31st December, 1956.

The rise in population of the previous year was more than offset by a rapid fall of 200 in the Registrar Generals estimate. The number of live births was 15 fewer than in 1955, and there were 4 more deaths. The number of infantile deaths remained the same (viz. 1)

There was an increase of 3 in the number of deaths from Cancer, of which none were from cancer of the lung.

Respiratory Tuberculosis notifications were one fewer and Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis notifications remained the same (1.) as in the previous year, and once again there were no deaths from this cause. Of the other Infectious Diseases there was an extensive epidemic of Measles and a minor one of Scarlet Fever in the first quarter of the year.

One case of Poliomyelitis was notified in the district, and an investigation was carried out in another case, which had a fatal termination, where the patient had resided temporarily in the district.

The standard of food hygiene and handling was generally good and supervision and advice was continued. There were no cases of food poisoning notified.

Negotiations regarding the Towyn sewerage were continued during the year. The problem remained acute, and it is to be hoped that the proposals reach fruition in the near future. Aberdovey's problem still remains. The pollution of beaches in coastal areas is of widespread concern at the moment.

I wish to thank Mr. S. Taylor for his co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) EVAN RICHARDS

Medical Officer of Health and
District Medical Officer.

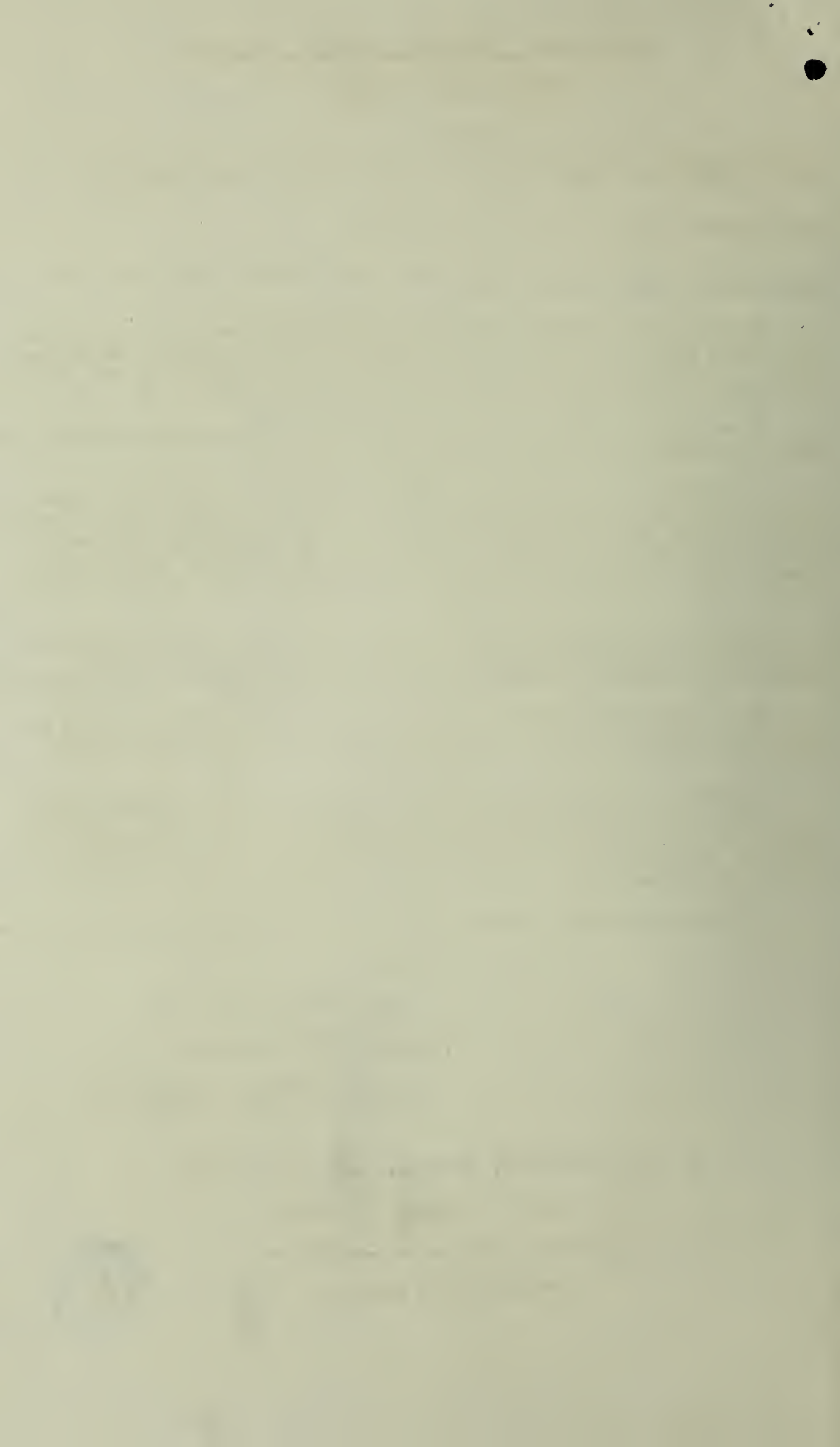
E. F. W. RICHARDS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

S. TAYLOR, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspector





TOWYN URBAN DISTRICT - 1956

SECTION A. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of Urban District	22,959 acres.
Rateable Value	£46,843
Population (Registrar. General's figures)	4,170
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£195
Number of inhabited houses (According to the Rate Books) at end of year	1,403

COMPARABILITY FACTORS

Births	1.28
Deaths	0.91

VITAL STATISTICS

Nett Births (Live and Still)	53
Births (Live)	53
Births (Still)	Nil

<u>LIVE BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION</u>	12.70
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LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Total	29	24
Legitimate	28	24
Illegitimate	1	Nil

Illegitimate Birth Rate (Percentage of Total Live Births)
- 1.88.

DEATHS

Total Number	-	59	Males 27	Females 32
Rate per 1,000 population	-	14.15		
1955 figures	-	12.59		

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Females</u>
Total	1		-
Legitimate	-		-
Illegitimate	1		-
Infant Mortality (Rate per 1,000 Live births)	-	18.87	
1955 figures	-	29.41	
Deaths of Legitimate Infants			
Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	-	Nil	
Deaths of Illegitimate Infants			
Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	-	18.87	

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Total	1	-
Legitimate	-	-
Illegitimate	1	-

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Deaths connected with childbirth and pregnancy - Nil

DEATHS FROM CANCER

Total - 14

Rate per 1,000 population - 3.35

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS - Nil

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(1) PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

One Medical Officer
One Public Health Inspector

(2) LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratory,
Aberystwyth.
Chemical analysis (Water) performed by Public Analyst, Chester.

(3) AMBULANCE FACILITIES

One Ambulance stationed at Towyn.

(4) INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

Held at Church Hall, Aberdovey every 3rd Tuesday at 2.0 p.m.
Held at The Institute, Towyn, Tuesdays fortnightly at 2.0 p.m.

(5) ANTE NATAL CLINICS

Held at 2.0 p.m. on the last Wednesday in the month at Towyn &
District Hospital.

(6) ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC

Dolgelley Hospital every 2nd and 4th Thursday in each month.
Machynlleth Hospital every 2nd and 4th Friday in each month.

(7) TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC

Machynlleth Chest Hospital weekly at 10.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m.
on Wednesday.

(8) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Babies and young children are immunised in the Primary Schools
by arrangement of the County Medical Officer of Health.

(9) HOSPITALS

One fully equipped Hospital at Towyn.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Total number of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year - 91.

Measles	84
Scarlet Fever	6
Infantile Paralysis	1

TUBERCULOSISNEW CASES

Fulmonary	Males 2	Total - 3	Females 1
Non-pulmonary	Males Nil	Total - 1	Females 1

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS - Nil

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1956 in age groups

Age Periods	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 to 2	-	-	-	1	Nil		Nil	
15 to 20	-	1	-	-	"		"	
45 to 55	2	-	-	-	"		"	
Total	2	1	-	1	Nil		Nil	

CAUSES OF DEATH - 1956

	M.	F.
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	Nil
Cancer Stomach	1	2
" Lungs	Nil	Nil
" Breast	Nil	1
" Other sites	3	7
Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	2
Coronary diseases, angina	8	2
Other Heart diseases	3	5
Other circulatory diseases	4	1
Pneumonia	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	8
All other accidents	Nil	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	Nil
Totals	27	32



THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF TOWYN

TO THE
CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF TOWYN

Mr.Chairman, Miss Richards and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration my Annual Report for the year 1956.

The delay in presenting this report is much regretted but, as will be appreciated, this is due to my prolonged absence from duty through ill health.

I wish to thank the Council and its Public Health and Housing Committee for the help they have given me during the year and the consideration given by them to my reports and recommendations. I wish, too, to express my sincere appreciation to the Chief Officers and Staff of the Council for their ready and kind co-operation.

I am,

Mr.Chairman, Miss Richards and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

(Signed) S. TAYLOR,

Public Health Inspector.



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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF TOWYN

Public Health Inspector's Annual Report - 1956.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 & 1951

No formal action was taken during the year, but several cases were kept under observation.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

Aberdovey, Bryncrug & Towyn

The supply to these three communities was maintained throughout the year by gravity from the Braich-y-Khiw source, the need for pumping from the Afon Fathew not being found necessary. Regular sampling has proved the quality of the water to be highly satisfactory. The average daily consumption was 258,000 gallons.

Cwrt

The new bulk supply scheme for this village, referred to in previous annual reports, was completed during the year. The supply has proved to be satisfactory and the quality of the water excellent. The average daily consumption was 1,300 gallons.

Private Supplies

Streams, land springs and wells provide supplies to isolated houses and farms. Piped water supply was provided at four farms during the year.

Bacteriological Analysis

79 samples from public and private supplies were submitted for analysis, the results of which are as follows :-

Supply	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory		Total	
	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955
Aberdovey	8	13	-	2	8	15
Abertrinant	12	2	-	-	12	2
Bryncrug	13	9	-	-	13	9
Cwrt	7	8	-	1	7	9
Pennal	13	5	-	2	13	7
Towyn	7	8	-	1	7	9
Private	12	9	7	5	19	14
TOTAL	72	54	7	11	79	65

The figures for 1955 are shown for comparison.

Drainage and Sewerage

Aberdovey

Crude sewage continues to be discharged at high tide from storage tanks on the Wharf into the Dovey Estuary. Contamination of the beaches results at times and is a danger to Public Health.

It is to be hoped that the proposed sewage disposal scheme, which had to be deferred on economic grounds, may be commenced in the near future.

Bryncrug

The sewage disposal works and pumping station for this village have been operating satisfactorily during the year.

Towyn

Fouling of the beach in the vicinity of the outfall has again been experienced at certain times of the year. Flooding has also taken place, in various parts of the town, during periods of heavy rainfall due to surcharging of the sewer. It has been necessary to make daily visits to the outfall pipe throughout the year in order to guard against silting and blocking of the tidal flap. It is hoped that the way will soon be clear for the commencement of the new proposed improvement scheme.

New drainage and septic tank installations were provided at 5 farms during the year.

Night soil is collected with household refuse at Cwrt.

Drainage Inspections.

30 tests were carried out on new drainage systems and 34 on existing drains.

Public Cleansing

Refuse Collection

The collection of household refuse for the whole district was again undertaken by Contractors. Collections are made twice weekly at Aberdovey, and Towyn, once weekly at Bryncrug and Cwrt and once a fortnight at Abertafol.

There is no collection of trade refuse. I would respectfully recommend that the Council give further consideration to this matter.

Refuse Disposal

A modified system of controlled tipping is in operation at both the Aberdovey and Towyn depositories. Every effort has been made to maintain the sites in a tidy condition, although material for covering the tipping surface has been increasingly difficult to obtain. Several outbreaks of fire occurred at both depositories as a result of indiscriminate tipping by business and other people. This, too, made the work of maintenance extremely difficult.

Regular treatments were carried out during the year to keep the tips free from rat infestation.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The number and nature of inspections were as follows :-

Abattoir	...	...	...	...	177
Accumulations	...	...	...	...	21
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	18
Cinema	...	...	...	...	3
Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	45
Cancer Research	...	...	...	...	8
Dairies and Milk Supplies	...	...	...	...	115
Disinfestation	...	...	...	...	6

Drainage & Sewerage	...	...	...	238
Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	243
Factories	...	...	...	54
Food Premises - General	...	...	...	198
Hill Farming Act	...	...	...	25
Ice-Cream Premises	...	...	...	61
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	69
Infectious Disease & Disinfection				39
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	3
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	39
National Assistance Act	...	...	...	5
Nuisances	...	...	...	148
Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	14
Piggeries	...	...	...	16
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	100
Refuse Collection & Disposal	...	...	...	101
Rodent Control	...	...	...	99
Schools	...	...	...	11
Shops Acts	...	...	...	24
Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	6
Unsound Foods	...	...	...	35
Water Supplies	...	...	...	117
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	89

TOTAL ... 2275

Complaints received and investigated 67

The number of notices served and complied with were as follows :-

Statute	Notices not complied with at end of 1955	Notices served during 1956:		Notices complied with during 1956	Notices not complied with at end of 1956
		Statutory	Informal		
Public Health Act	8	14	36	56	2
Food & Drugs Act	2	-	16	14	4
Factories Act	-	-	3	3	-
Milk and Dairies Regulations	-	-	2	2	-
Petroleum Acts	-	-	3	3	-
TOTAL	10	14	60	78	6

Factories Acts, 1937 & 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health :-

Premises	Number on Register	Number of:		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2, 3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	8	11	-	-

Premises	Number on Register	Number of:		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	24	43	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers, premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	32	54	-	-

2. Defects found:

Particulars	Number of Defects				
	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector	to H.M. Inspector	Prosecutions
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	1	1	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	3	-	-	-

Disinfection

Twelve premises were disinfected during the year following cases of infectious and other diseases.

Disinfestation

Eleven premises were treated for insect infestation, including ants, beetles and flies. Anti-fly measures were also carried out at the Aberdovey and Towyn refuse depositories.

Rodent Control

All rodent work at private dwelling houses was carried out free of charge, but the cost incurred in treating business and agricultural premises was recovered.

The work of the rodent operative during the year is shown overleaf :-

Type of Property	Inspections	Number Infested and Treated for		Visits for Treatment	Total Visits
		Rats	Mice		
Local Authority's Properties	15	15	-	44	59
Dwelling Houses	133	42	26	176	309
Agricultural Properties	13	7	-	25	38
Business Premises	7	4	2	21	28
TOTAL	168	68	28	266	434

Regular treatments were carried out on the Aberdovey and Towyn refuse depositories. In addition two treatments were carried out of the Aberdovey and Towyn sewers.

Public Conveniences

The public conveniences throughout the District were well maintained in a clean condition although they were often badly misused by the public. To meet the need for additional accommodation work on a new convenience near the Wharf Station was commenced at the end of the year.

Camping Sites

There are six established camping sites in the district providing accommodation for 280 caravans. The conditions at these sites were generally satisfactory and some minor improvements were effected. A new site for 12 caravans was licensed during the year. Some unauthorised sites were again used for camping, during the peak period of the season, but no serious nuisances occurred.

Hill Farming and Livestock Rearing Acts

Several occupiers of hill farms in the District have taken advantage of grants available from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food to repair and improve their farm premises.

The following work was carried out during the year :-

Provision of water closet, drainage and septic tank installations ...	...	5
Provisions of new piped water supply ...	...	4
Provision of bathroom ...	...	4
Installation of hot water system ...	...	4
Installation of new kitchen range ...	...	4
Repairs and improvements to existing accommodation ...	...	5

HOUSING

New Houses

The number of new houses completed during the year was as follows :-

By the Local Authority	4
By other persons	3

Improvement Grants

Some owners have taken advantage of the grants available from the Council under the provisions of Part (II) of the Housing Act, 1949 for the improvement of houses. All applications received, with one exception, were from owner-occupiers. Five grants, amounting in total to £800. 0. 0. and involving six houses, were undertaken during the year.

Unfit Houses

The Council gave much consideration, during the year under review, to the problem of dealing with unfit houses, but it was resolved to defer action in this matter until the economic situation was more favourable.

I am pleased to record, however, that, at the time of writing, the Council has decided to reconsider the position of the houses comprised in the schedule of proposals submitted to the Ministry with the view to action being taken in the near future with respect to those houses in the survey which may be the subject of an undertaking for repair or otherwise.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The following table sets out the number of carcasses inspected, together with particulars of carcasses and parts thereof condemned at the local slaughter-house.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	203	81	4	4240	416	-
Number Inspected	203	81	4	4240	416	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis						
Whole condemned	1	-	1	2	-	-
Part or organ condemned	52	39	-	743	69	-
Percentage of No. affected	26.10	48.15	25.00	17.57	16.59	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Part or organ condemned	1	-	-	-	4	-
Percentage or No. affected	0.49	-	-	-	0.96	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Whole condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Submitted for treatment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

The total number of carcasses examined during the year was 4944, an increase of 194 on the year 1955.

Weight of Diseased and Unsound Meat and Offal Condemned.

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Meat		11	-	10
Offal	1	15	3	3
TOTAL	2	6	3	13

The whole of this meat and offal was disposed of for processing and recovery purposes by the owners of the slaughterhouse. Precautions were continued of staining unsound meat and offal with a vegetable dye to prevent the possibility of it being used for human consumption.

Analysis of Causes of Condemnation

1. Whole carcasses

DISEASE	Cattle	Sheep	Calves
Septicaemia	1		
General oedema and emaciation		2	
Acute Septic Peritonitis			1

2. Part Carcasses and Offal

Diseases	CATTLE (Including Cows)					Sheep & Lambs		PIGS					
	Part Hindquarters	Heads and Tongues	Lungs	Livers	Intestines	Lungs	Livers	Heads and Tongues	Lu gs	Livers	Hearts	Kidneys	Stomachs and Intestines
Abcess				3		4	7						
Actinomycosis		20											
Angioma				9									
Cirrhosis				1									
Congestion			1			90			20				
Cysts			10			34	127			9		4	
Degeneration							4					1	
Facioliasis				62			144						
Injury and Bruising	1												
Necrosis							6			14			
Niphritis												2	
Parasitic							96						
Pericarditis											16		
Peritonitis							3			3			
Pleurisy			2			21			15				
Pneumonia			2			106			14				
Strongyli						247							
Tuberculosis		1			1			4					4
TOTALS	6	1	21	15	75	1	502	387	4	49	16	7	26

It is very pleasing to report that the incidence of Tuberculosis in all cattle shows a marked decrease, localized lesions only being found in less than 1% as compared with 2.16% in 1955 and 2.08 in 1954. The percentage of the number of pigs affected with this disease also showed a substantial decrease, being 0.96% as compared with 4.10% in 1955 and 3.06% in 1954.

It will be noted that the percentage of cattle affected with diseases other than tuberculosis is still relatively high, infestation by the liver fluke being the chief cause of condemnation. The presence of this and other parasites is also the primary cause of condemnation in sheep.

No cases of cystererci were found during the year.

Slaughter-house Control and the Transport and Handling of Meat.

The Towyn Wholesale Meat Co.Ltd. became the owner of the abattoir during the year and continued to operate the premises as a central slaughterhouse providing adequate facilities to meet the needs of all the local butchers. No applications were therefore received for licences in respect of other private slaughterhouses in the district.

It is gratifying to report that the general conditions at the premises have been very satisfactorily maintained and the standard of hygiene continues to reflect credit on the management and staff. All meat was inspected before being sent out for human consumption and the quality of the meat throughout the year has been very good.

The provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act were complied with in every respect.

The transport and handling of all meat has been satisfactory and every precaution taken to prevent soiling and contamination of the dressed carcasses.

All vehicles delivering livestock to the slaughterhouse are off-loaded on the premises. Hides, skins, and inedible offal, as well as diseased and unsound meat and offal, are loaded on the premises and removed at frequent and regular intervals.

Other Foods Condemned.

The following table gives details of the nature and weight of other foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption :-

		Cwts,	Qrs.	Lbs.
Canned Meat	...		2	22½
" Fruit	...	2	0	4¼
" Vegetables	...	3	0	1
" Milk	...			26
" Fish	...			4
" Soups	...			5¾
" Flour	...			8
Desicated Coconut	...			14
Potted Preserves	...			3½
Miscellaneous Foods				18¾
				<hr/>
	TOTAL	5	5	23¾
				<hr/>

Milk Supply

Registered Milk distributors	3
Producer-retailers not registered by the Local Authority	10
etailers of Tuberculin Tested Milk	7
Retailers of Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk	3
Retailers of Pasteurised Milk	3
Retailers of Ungraded Milk	4

85 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Aberystwyth. Details of the results and tests applied are given below :-

Grade of Milk	Summary of Results			Details of Tests			
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test	
				Satis.	Unsatis.	Satis.	Unsatis.
Tuberculin Tested	36	3	39	36	3	-	-
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised	12	-	12	12	-	12	-
Pasteurised	16	-	16	16	-	16	-
Ungraded	15	3	18	15	3	-	-
TOTAL	79	6	85	79	6	28	-

In addition one sample of Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk, 9 Tuberculin Tested Milks, one Pasteurised Milk and 4 Ungraded Milks were examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. All results were negative.

It will be noted that of the 67 samples of designated milk submitted for examination, only 3, and these from two of the Tuberculin Tested Milk producers failed to conform to the prescribed standard. Also, of the 18 samples of ungraded milk submitted for examination only three, which were from the same producer, were found to be unsatisfactory. In each case details of the adverse reports were forwarded to the County Milk Production Officer for investigation and appropriate action. Samples taken later were found to be satisfactory.

Regular sampling was again carried out of all milk supplied to the six schools in the district and constant supervision was maintained of milk vehicles and registered dairies.

Ice-Cream

There are 21 premises in the district registered for the sale of ice-cream, four applications having been approved during the year and an application for the transfer of registration was approved in another case. Manufacturing of a cold-mix ice-cream was carried out at one premises registered by the Local Authority. The majority of the vendors sell a wrapped or pre-packed product.

Regular inspections were made of the premises used for the manufacture and retail sale of ice-cream and it was found generally that a good standard of hygiene was maintained.

22 samples of ice-cream, including two manufactured locally, were submitted for bacteriological analysis. All were reported to be satisfactory and placed in grade I.

In addition six samples of ice-lollies were submitted for examination. They were all found to be satisfactory, there being no coliform bacilli present in any of the samples.

Food Hygiene

There was no change in the number of food premises in the area during the year there being 57 catering establishments, 24 grocers (including Green-grocers), 6 bakehouses, 6 canteens, 5 butchers and 10 confectioner shops a total of 108.

Much time was again devoted to the inspection of these premises and it was found that the general standard of hygiene maintained was reasonably good. I am happy to report that much co-operation was received from the various trades-people and some further improvements were effected during the year. Every opportunity was taken to stress the importance of strict cleanliness in food handling and, in particular, the need for personal hygiene amongst all food handlers. It was found necessary, however, on two occasions, to warn people for smoking whilst handling open foods.

Food Poisoning

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Sampling of food for compositional quality under the Food and Drugs Act is administered by the County Council. Mr.K.T. Edwards, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, has reported as follows on samples taken in the Towyn Urban District during the year under review.

Article	Number Obtained	Number certified as adulterated or not up to standard.
Milk (formal)	10	-
Milk (informal)	1	-
Sausages	4	-
Fish Cakes	1	-
Steak & Kidney Pudding	1	-
Butter	2	-
Orange Squash	1	-
Ice-Cream	1	-
Whisky	1	-
TOTALS	22	-

